

Music development plan summary

St James' CE Primary School, Wigan



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	Sept 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr L. Edwards
Name of local music hub	Wigan Music Services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Our full music curriculum for each year group is published on the school website and includes information on how we ensure access for disabled pupils and those with special educational needs (SEND).

Music is taught weekly across all year groups. In EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 pupils receive one dedicated Charanga lesson per week (approximately 45 minutes). Years 4, 5 and 6 receiving a weekly 45-minute lesson delivered by specialist teachers from Wigan Music Service. Wigan Music Service teachers deliver a progressive programme of learning that builds pupils' technical, constructive and expressive musical knowledge and skills over time. Learning develops through the key musical areas of singing, listening, composing and performing, in line with the expectations of the National Curriculum.

The partnership with Wigan Music Service provides pupils with access to specialist musical expertise and supports the development of confident, creative and well-rounded young musicians.

Our curriculum is structured using Charanga (EYFS–Y2), supplemented by specialist-led instrumental teaching (Y3–Y6). Charanga is aligned with the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (March 2021), ensuring clear progression in singing, listening, composing and performing from Reception to Year 6. Specialist instrumental teaching in KS2 further supports the Model Music Curriculum by developing instrumental proficiency, ensemble skills and musical notation.

All pupils have opportunities to learn to sing regularly and to play instruments during curriculum time. Singing takes place in classrooms, during performances, and in our weekly whole-school singing worship. Every class participates in performances, including our termly church services, seasonal celebrations, and class assemblies. Instrumental opportunities include:

- Whole-class recorder in Years 3 and 4
- Whole-class ukulele in Years 5 and 6
- Instrumental exploration and percussion throughout EYFS and KS1

We ensure music is fully accessible by:

- Differentiating Charanga materials and instrumental parts
- Providing scaffolded rhythm work, visual cues and repetition for SEND learners
- Offering alternative instruments or adapted techniques when needed
- Creating inclusive performance opportunities where every pupil can participate confidently

Our curriculum music is strongly supported through our partnership with Wigan Music Service, who provide specialist instrumental teachers, CPD for staff, and access to performance events and local musical opportunities. As a Church of England school, we also work closely with our local parish church, where pupils regularly sing and perform as part of our worship and community engagement.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Our school provides a range of opportunities for pupils to develop their musical skills beyond curriculum music lessons. We provide access to singing opportunities through our successful after-school choir, which regularly performs at special events, school fetes and for our wider school community. The choir provides pupils with opportunities to develop their confidence, vocal skills and enjoyment of performing with others.

Our school also offers a dance club, which supports pupils to develop rhythm, coordination, musicality, confidence and creative expression through movement.

We have identified children who are entitled to Pupil Premium funding and provide opportunities for these pupils to access instrumental and vocal tuition where appropriate, helping to ensure that financial circumstances do not act as a barrier to participation in music.

In partnership with our local authority music service, Wigan Music Service, classes and Key Stages are regularly given the opportunity to participate in performances and musical events across the borough, including the WOWS Big Sing festival. These opportunities enable pupils to perform to wider audiences, experience live music-making and develop their confidence and musical skills beyond the classroom.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Throughout the academic year, pupils have regular opportunities to experience, participate in and perform music both within school and in the wider community.

Singing is a regular part of school life through assemblies and worship, providing opportunities for all pupils to develop their confidence, singing skills and enjoyment of music. We plan performance and showcasing opportunities for all year groups through Christian celebrations, both in school and within our attached church. Parents, carers and the wider school community are invited to experience these performances alongside the children.

Our after-school choir provides additional opportunities for pupils to develop their vocal skills, confidence and enjoyment of performing. The choir regularly performs at special events, school fetes and for our wider school community. We provide opportunities for pupils to experience live musical performances at least once each academic year. We embrace a variety of musical genres, styles, cultures and traditions, allowing pupils to broaden their musical experiences and develop an appreciation of music from different backgrounds.

Pupils also have opportunities to experience music as audience members, developing their ability to listen attentively, respond to music and appreciate live performance.

In partnership with our local authority consortium, classes and Key Stages are regularly given opportunities to participate in performances and musical events across the borough, including the Wows Big Sing festival. These experiences enable pupils to perform alongside children from other schools, experience large-scale music-making and develop their confidence as musicians.

Children are introduced to influential musicians and composers through our weekly BELONG workshops. Music from a range of musicians, composers, genres and traditions is also played throughout the school building during the school day, providing pupils with regular opportunities to listen to and encounter a diverse range of music.

We aim to ensure that financial circumstances do not prevent pupils from accessing musical experiences.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.